Abstract

An epidural needle has an elongate tube defining a longitudinal axis having a proximal end, a distal end and an axial hollow bore therethrough. The needle has a hub with a proximal end, a distal end and an open passageway having an inside

5   diameter therethrough, the hub being attached to the elongate tube so that the hollow bore of the elongate tube is in fluid communication and substantial axial alignment with the open passageway. The hub further has a cavity disposed between the proximal end and the distal end of the hub. There is a resilient member with an opening therethrough that has an inner diameter disposed in the cavity so

10   that the opening is substantially axially aligned and in fluid communication with the open passageway. The hub of the epidural needle of the invention has a clamp with a releasable latch disposed about the resilient member. The clamp is selectively movable between an open position wherein the inner diameter of the resilient member is substantially unaffected and a clamp/latch position wherein the clamp

15   causes a strain to the resilient member and thereby reduces the inner diameter of the opening through the resilient member.

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